

Welcome to 2011. I hope you enjoyed your break and are ready to jump into a new year with new ideas.

This week it is all about FREE e-readers.

1. Kindle: If you don't have a Kindle that's O.K. You can use their free app on your computer, iPhone, blackberry, android, iPod touch, or iPad. Amazon offers many free books that are always changing. Check their site often. Children's books show up for free occasionally.

2. Nook: Nook offers the same free apps that are offered by Kindle. They also have a Kids Nook app that let's you read children's picture books in color. The Kids Nook comes with two free books. I have not noticed as much free content on the Nook but the Kids Nook is an app that is really worth taking a look, especially if you have an iPad.

3. Tales2Go: Tales 2 Go is a fantastic app that brings stories to life and sparks kids imaginations by introducing them to audio stories from leading narrators and storytellers. This app is available for iPod Touch and iPad. Until January 15, they are offering a free subscription for educators that is good through June 2011. This would be great in a listening center. They even have all of the Wimpy Kids books plus about 1,300 other books. Just go to this site to download

tales2go.com/schoolpromo

4. Iceberg Kids: IceBerg Kids is an eReader designed especially for kids. Iceberg Kids brings children's books to the iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch. The free eReader comes with excerpts from Princess Hyacinth; Mr. Funny; Fred and Ted Like to Fly; Merry Christmas, Curious George; The I Love You Book, The Polar Express, and The Night Before Christmas. Iceberg kids is more than just an eReader, students can record their own audio book, image exploration, a visual table of contents, and auto read to hear the story read aloud or recorded in your

own voice. What great fluency practice.

5. ePubBud: This is essentially a you tube for kids books. You can create a book or digitize a real book. The site is YouTube-like in that anyone can create and share their own children's ebooks. The goal of this not-for-profit website is to provide an easy way to find, share, and self-publish children's ebooks. [ePub Bud](http://www.epubbud.com/) lets you create an ebook for a small audience, or for the whole world, digitize a real book by mailing in a physical children's book and having it "digitized" for the iPad, upload an ebook file that you can read on the iPad, or download an eBook (classics and books others have shared). Best of all, everything you do on [ePub Bud](http://www.epubbud.com/) is completely free! Use [ePub Bud](http://www.epubbud.com/) in your classroom to "publish" student stories. The books can be shared with other students, parents, and schools. Publishing an eBook of their own is highly motivating, and will have your students eager to write. With ePub Bud, your students could construct their own text books. Have them create ebooks about what they are learning to share with others.

<http://www.epubbud.com/>

Have a great weekend!

